



SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO : CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

SeaportTable 1: Labor Force & Employment Nez Perce County, Idaho, and Asotin County, Washington					
	Sept 2000	August 2000	Sept 1999	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	33,770	34,510	35,410	-2.1	-4.6
Unemployment	1,490	1,460	1,310	2.1	13.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	4.2	3.7		
Total Employment	32,280	33,050	34,100	-2.3	-5.3
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	33,430	34,300	35,130	-2.5	-4.8
Unemployment	1,110	1,220	970	-9.0	14.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	3.6	2.8		
Total Employment	32,320	33,080	34,160	-2.3	-5.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	24,950	25,080	26,220	-0.5	-4.8
Goods-Producing Industries	5,010	5,240	5,720	-4.4	-12.4
Mining & Construction	1,160	1,310	1,540	-11.5	-24.7
Manufacturing	3,850	3,930	4,180	-2.0	-7.9
Food Processing	70	90	180	-22.2	-61.1
Lumber & Wood Products	710	720	800	-1.4	-11.3
Paper Products	1,770	1,800	1,850	-1.7	-4.3
All Other Manufacturing	1,300	1,320	1,350	-1.5	-3.7
Service-Producing Industries	19,940	19,840	20,500	0.5	-2.7
Transportation	1,350	1,340	1,340	0.7	0.7
Communications & Utilities	250	250	270	0.0	-7.4
Wholesale Trade	1,150	1,140	1,080	0.9	6.5
Retail Trade	5,170	5,320	5,330	-2.8	-3.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,340	1,380	1,440	-2.9	-6.9
Services	6,820	6,680	7,080	2.1	-3.7
Government Administration	1,800	1,860	1,790	-3.2	0.6
Government Education	2,060	1,870	2,170	10.2	-5.1
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

Enterprises alone have contributed the largest increase in employment and earnings since the inception of gaming on the reservation in 1996. The study found that Nez Perce tribal enterprises grew from \$4 million in earnings impacts in 1995 to \$15.7 million in 2000, an increase of nearly 300 percent. Gaming operations at the Clearwater River Casino near Lewiston provided more than \$10.5 million in earnings and 819 jobs. Retail sales accounted for nearly \$4 million in earnings and 267 jobs resulting from the Express stores in Lewiston and Kamiah. Other tribal interests such as mining, forest and land enterprises totaled more than \$1 million and 55 jobs.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS : CLEARWATER COUNTY

- Fueled by the shutdown of the Jaype Plywood mill in Pierce, the unemployment rate in Clearwater County soared to 22.1 percent in September. Because of high unemployment and labor shortages around the state, companies outside of the area are examining Clearwater County's labor force for applicants. However, many of the jobs require people either to move or commute away from their homes. Consequently, local govern-

ment and business committees are looking at ways to stimulate the local economy by supporting existing business, recruiting new business, and building the infrastructure needed for an industrial park.

Idaho County

- Columbia Grain, one of the Camas Prairies largest grain storage and shipping companies, will cut back two of its four full-time plants, idling 11 employees. Beginning November 1st, the full time work force on the Camas Prairie will be reduced from 25 to 14 and the plants at Nezperce and Cottonwood will be downsized to seasonal operations. At these locations, workers will be hired only during harvest. Full-sized operation offices will remain open in Grangeville and Craigmont.
- Complementary Medicine has opened at 219 Pine Street in Grangeville. The new business will offer consultations and training in nutrition, mediation, holistic health, and acupuncture. According to the owners, their aim is to promote a lifestyle that creates long-term wellness. The business receives referrals from area doctors but walk-ins are welcomed.
- Lincare, out of Clarkston, Washington, has opened an office at Grangeville's White Horse Business Center. The home oxygen and respiratory services company travels to patient's homes upon referral from doctors to provide oxygen and breathing-related products.

Lewis County

- Bear Paw, a new and used shop, is now open in Craigmont. Racks of second-hand clothing, collectables and toys fill the showroom located in the old Wooden Joys building on Main Street.
- This year's harvest is complete, and record yields for soft white wheat have been recorded. Some growers are reporting up to 130 bushels of wheat per acre and the winter wheat yields in general were up 20 to 30 percent. According to the Washington and Idaho Wheat Commissions, this year's crop was one of the largest on record, harvested from the smallest acreage in two decades. The prices are, however, the lowest they have been in 25 years.

Latah County

- The Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport has installed a \$1 million transponder landing system (TLS). The TLS is the latest in precision-landing equipment and guides commercial pilots in inclement weather, such as heavy rain, whipping winds, thick fog or snow storms. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) paid for the installation of the TLS through a special

fund jointly supported by congressional delegations from Idaho and Washington. The FAA saw the location of the airport as an ideal site to install the new technology because of the challenges of installing precision-landing systems at airports with limited space and very little flat land.

- The city of Moscow is renovating the old 1912 Moscow High School Building into a community center. The city bought the building from the Moscow School District in 1997. Since that time, an anonymous donor has given \$2 million to turn the building into a community center.
- Construction on the long-awaited biotechnology building at the University of Idaho in Moscow should be complete by next spring. The project began last October. The new facility will add to the school's credibility and help to attract new staff to lead cutting-edge research in the biotechnology field in the 21st century.

Nez Perce County

- Regence Blue Shield of Idaho is moving a majority of its executive team out of Lewiston in the next four to five years but expects growth in other areas will make the payroll larger in Lewiston.
- Blount Incorporated laid off 76 workers from October 9th to November 6th. The decision was related to inventory at distributors, said Darrel Inman, senior vice-president of operations for the sporting equipment group in Lewiston, even though consumer buying patterns are constant.
- Potlatch No.1 Federal Credit Union has closed one of its locations at 3113 East Main Street in Lewiston. Built in 1964, the branch was the credit union's oldest. Transactions at the branch had fallen from being 32 percent of the credit union's overall business two years ago to 15 percent currently, said Chris Loseth, president and chief executive officer.

Doug Tweedy, Labor Market Analyst
1158 Idaho Street, Lewiston, ID
(208) 799-5000 ext. 307

E-mail: dtweedy@labor.state.id.us